

resolution commending the bravery, courage, and resolve of the women and men of Iran demonstrating in more than 133 cities and risking their safety to speak out against the Iranian regime's human rights abuses.

S. RES. 36

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 36, a resolution reinforcing the United States-Nigeria relationship and urging the Government of Nigeria to conduct free, fair, transparent, and inclusive elections in 2023.

S. RES. 49

At the request of Mr. Hawley, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. Scott) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 49, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Chinese Communist Party's espionage mission to send a surveillance balloon across the United States, in violation of international law, is unacceptable and should be condemned.

S. RES. 66

At the request of Ms. Collins, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. Fischer) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 66, a resolution condemning the use by the People's Republic of China of a high-altitude surveillance balloon over the territory of the United States as a brazen violation of United States sovereignty.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. Sullivan):

S. 479. A bill to modify the fire management assistance cost share, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. Sullivan):

S. 485. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize the President to provide hazard mitigation assistance for mitigating and preventing post-wildfire flooding and debris flow, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. PADILLA, Madam President, I rise to introduce the Fire Suppression and Response Funding Act and the Hazard and Flooding Mitigation Funding Equity Act, two bills that would help both California and our Nation meet the increasing challenges posed by natural disasters.

Currently, FEMA's Fire Management Assistance Grant, FMAG, program is available to State, local, and Tribal governments for the mitigation, management, and control of fires that threaten such destruction that they would constitute a major disaster.

However, current law does not account for extreme circumstances like consecutive events or have any flexi-

bility like other Federal assistance programs and only allows for reimbursement of expenses incurred after an FMAG is granted.

The Fire Suppression and Response Funding Act would explicitly allow for FMAGs to cover the predeployment of assets and resources during times of extreme risk before a catastrophic fire breaks out. These predeployed assets are critical tools to help State, local, and Tribal governments suppress and contain a fire in its early stages before it constitutes a major disaster declaration.

Additionally, this bill states that the Federal cost share of FMAGs shall be not less than 75 percent of the eligible cost of such assistance, making FMAGs consistent with other FEMA disaster assistance and allowing for necessary flexibility to address consecutive wildfires in the same area. This bill does not mandate any cost share increase but simply allows for flexibility as FEMA considers FMAGs on an incident-by-incident basis.

As we have seen in the West, wildfires strip away vegetation in the form of burn scars, leaving the soil vulnerable to erosion and mudslides. When these burn scars are met with heavy rainfall, they often produce debris flows of loose mud, soil, and rock that pose serious threats to life, property, and public infrastructure. Post-fire events of this type are well documented throughout Southern California and across the Western United States. After the most recent atmospheric river event in California, thousands of people were evacuated due to large scale flooding and fears of debris flows in areas recently affected by wildfires.

The Hazard and Flooding Mitigation Funding Equity Act would make FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, HMGP, which covers flood protection, consistent with other FEMA disaster assistance by stating that the Federal cost share of HMGP shall be not less than 75 percent of the eligible cost of such assistance. This bill does not mandate any increase but simply allows for flexibility and increased Federal assistance where necessary to address concurrent extreme weather and wildfire events.

This bill will better support State and local governments to rebuild and mitigate future risk from flooding like we saw recently in California and postfire risks we have seen across the West.

These bills represent commonsense ways to proactively mitigate, effectively respond, and equitably recover from disasters. I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact them as soon as possible.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. Brown, Ms. Warren, Mr. Van Hollen, Mr. Booker, Mr. Whitehouse, Ms. Baldwin, Mr. Padilla, Mr. Merkley, and Mr. Casey):

S. 496. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to reaffirm the importance of workers; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED, Madam President, I am joined by Senators Brown, Warren, Van Hollen, Booker, Whitehouse, Baldwin, Padilla, and Merkley in reintroducing the Respect for Workers Act, a bill that would ensure that at least one Federal Reserve Governor has demonstrated primary experience in supporting or protecting the rights of workers.

Today, the Federal Reserve is attempting to curb inflation without plunging the economy into a recession. Over the past year, it has increased the Federal funds rate by 4½ percentage points to cool the economy and ease prices—its fastest pace of rate hikes since the early 1980s. But this is a difficult balancing act. If the Federal Reserve does not get its policies right, it may fail to defeat inflation or drive us into a recession. Workers would bear the brunt of the economic fallout attached to either outcome through higher prices or higher unemployment.

Arguably no group is more affected by the Federal Reserve's efforts to meet its dual mandate to promote stable prices and maximum employment than workers. But, while the law requires the Federal Reserve Board of Governors to represent diverse geographic regions and a wide array of commercial interests, no Federal Reserve Governor is required to have a background in protecting the interests of workers. Indeed, while the interests of Wall Street, nonbank financial institutions, and big business have long been well-represented on the Board, everyday working men and women have not been given the same voice in monetary policymaking.

Our bill fills this hole by requiring at least one Federal Reserve Governor has experience addressing the challenges facing workers. This is not a new concept. In fact, our bill is modeled on the 2015 law that requires at least one of the seven Federal Reserve Governors to be an individual "with demonstrated primary experience working in or supervising community banks."

In short, the Respect for Workers Act would ensure workers' economic needs are represented at the Federal Reserve. It would build a stronger, more representative Board of Governors and promote a healthier economy.

I thank the AFL-CIO, Groundwork Collaborative, National Employment Law Project, MIT Professor and Former International Monetary Fund Chief Economist Simon Johnson, and Georgetown Law Professor Adam Levitin for their support and urge our colleagues to join in pushing to enact this legislation.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Barrasso, Mrs. Britt, Mr. Cramer, Ms. Ernst, Mr. Grassley, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Scott of Florida, and Mr. Scott of South Carolina):